



# The Franciscans

September/October 2023

A newsletter for friends and members of St. Francis Episcopal Church  
Goldsboro, NC 27534

The phrase “the people are the church, not the building” drives me up a wall. Yes, it has a technical truth to it, but the implications are egregiously overblown. Now I know what some are already saying: “Of course you disagree; you’re a priest it benefits you to have people in the pews.” Again, that has some technical truths but is a gross oversimplification. As a priest, my strongest desire and the point of my vocation is through word and Sacraments to bring people into a relationship with God. As such, wanting people to go to a Church every Sunday is not some self-gratifying point but a desire out of Christian love, a love that wants the best for someone, which can only be found through a personal relationship with the Heavenly Father and with fully engaging in the Christian life.

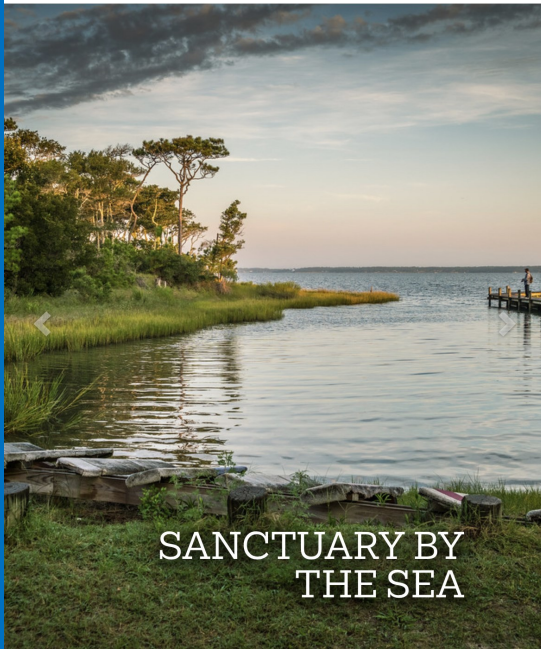
So then, why is the church as the building and the gathering place of worship important? Why have people sunk resources into beautifying buildings and ground for thousands of years, or have them set aside as places dedicated to a worshipping community? Well, the Old Testament is filled with stories of God wanting the Israelites to set apart a place for their worship and to commune with Him. Even when they were in the desert, God instructed them to build a tabernacle to be their place set aside. Look at the example of Jesus Christ Himself; God incarnate in the flesh regularly attended synagogue, or as the Gospels state about His attendance, that going to the synagogue was “His custom.” Jesus Himself also in the Gospels states the Apostle Peter was trusted to be the founding rock of His Church. Jesus intentionally intended that those who would follow Him be engaged with the greater community of believers and come together for fellowship and worship. I could go on and on with references in Holy Scripture that make it clear that the Christian life is intended to be done together with the church at the heart of their gathering and going out.

When we stop and think about it, it does make sense. Humans have forever been a communal and sociable species. We were created in the image of God, and He intended for us to have a relationship with Him and each other. We build our churches and keep our grounds beautiful because, as houses of worship, they reflect what we understand of God. Churches are built in many different shapes and sizes, emphasizing different aspects of our God. The vast and high-vaulted cathedrals show the splendor and majesty of God in His Kingship of all the universe. Small wooden Churches can reflect the beauty in the simplicity of natural creation and the close, intimate relationship a Christian is to have with God. Regularly, churches are criticized for using money on beautiful buildings and grounds. People say that the money could be used to feed the poor; again, there is a technical truth, but the implications do not tell the whole story. We can have beautiful Churches and feed and care for the needy. It doesn’t have to be an either-or.

So let us thank God that we have beautiful churches where the weary and downtrodden can have real experiences of God’s love for them. Let us give thanks that we have communal houses of worship in which we can join together to see our Lord Jesus Christ alive on our altar and thousands of others. Let us thank God that these places of worship serve as the gathering place for a community of believers to love and support one another and to be the hub from which we go to serve God’s people. With all of that, let us pray that all persons on Earth may find a church in which they may feel the love of God and know Him in their hearts and minds through the worship of Him and His love of them revealed in the Sacraments.

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. Whit Stroud





SANCTUARY BY THE SEA

We have 3 rooms available for our Parish Retreat, October 6-8, arriving 4pm on Friday and departing 11am on Sunday. The cost is \$186/double, \$226/single, which includes 2 nights lodging and all meals dinner Friday through breakfast Sunday. Sign up on the Parish Hall Tower.



Have you noticed our new stepping stone? This was a gift from the 2023 VBS participants.

St. Francis ECW ladies attended the Diocese of East Carolina August gathering at Trinity Center to hear Adrian H. Wood, PhD, author of the blog Tales of an Educated Debutante.



Don't forget to join us in the Parish Hall on the 4th Tuesday each month at 6pm for our Church-wide Potluck! September 26 and October 24 will be the next opportunities.





# September 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>Reminder: Beverly is on a Leave of Absence for the month of September—Fr. Whit plans to be in the office as indicated, but it would be best to call him first if you plan to come visit.</b></p>					1	2 9am Garden Clean-up 
3 14th Sunday After Pentecost 9am Holy Eucharist Coffee/Social Hour	4 CLOSED 	5 ← CLOSED— Fr. Whit will be taking this day off.	6 10-11am  6-7:30pm ALPHA @St Stephen's	7 NO CHOIR 6-7pm 	8 10:30am Coffee with saints! 	9
<p><b>Bill on vacation</b></p>						
10 15th Sunday After Pentecost 11am Homecoming at Holy Innocents <b>(NO SERVICE HERE AT ST. FRANCIS)</b>	11 10ish-3ish Fr. Whit in office	12 10ish-3ish Fr. Whit in office	13 10-11am  6-7:30pm LAST ALPHA @St Stephen's	14 NO CHOIR 6-7pm 	15 10:30am Coffee with saints! 	16
17 Holy Cross 9am Holy Eucharist Coffee/Social Hour ECW 	18 10ish-3ish Fr. Whit in office	19 10ish-3ish Fr. Whit in office 6pm Christian Formation 7pm 	20 10-11am 	21 4pm Choir 6-7pm 	22 10:30am Coffee with saints! 	23 8am-2pm ECW-proceeds to St. Francis 
24 17th Sunday After Pentecost 9am Holy Eucharist Coffee/Social Hour	25 10ish-3ish Fr. Whit in office	26 10ish-3ish Fr. Whit in office 6pm Christian Formation	27 10-11am 	28 4pm Choir 6-7pm 	29 10:30am Coffee with saints! 	30 9:30am St. Francis at the Soup Kitchen 

Lay Server Schedule September 2023	September 3 14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST <i>Holy Eucharist Father Whit Stroud</i>	September 10 15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST <i>Holy Eucharist Father Whit Stroud</i>	September 17 HOLY CROSS <i>Holy Eucharist Father Whit Stroud</i>	September 24 17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST <i>Holy Eucharist Father Whit Stroud</i>
	9:00 am	11:00 am	9:00 am	9:00 am
CRUCIFER	Barrett Rae/Diana Hammond Jodi Baker/Jimmy Valenzona	<b>We will join Holy Innocents for their Homecoming. NO SERVICE AT ST. FRANCIS.</b>	Barrett Rae/Diana Hammond Jodi Baker/Jimmy Valenzona	Barrett Rae/Diana Hammond Jodi Baker/Jimmy Valenzona
LECTORS	Patti Donnelly Barbara Pedersen		Liz Meador Barrett Rae	Brandon Robbins Jill Brogneaux
USHERS	Eldica Cyrus Lamar Aycock Scott Summers		Eldica Cyrus Lamar Aycock Scott Summers	Eldica Cyrus Lamar Aycock Scott Summers
FLOWER GUILD	David Powell		David Powell	David Powell
ALTAR GUILD	Judy Moye Jackie Gurley		Judy Moye Jackie Gurley	Judy Moye Jackie Gurley
EUCCHARISTIC VISITOR	Jill Brogneaux		Liz Meador	Jane Anthony
TELLERS	Lamar Aycock Barbara Pedersen/ Brandon Robbins		Lamar Aycock Barbara Pedersen/ Brandon Robbins	Lamar Aycock Barbara Pedersen/ Brandon Robbins
SOCIAL HOUR	Jill and Roger Brogneaux		Jill and Roger Brogneaux	Jill and Roger Brogneaux

# September

- 2...Brandon Robbins
- 6...Tom Phinizy
- 15...Bill Hayes
- 28...Karen Shoemake



If your birthday has been omitted, please notify the church office so that the birthday lists are up-to-date.

**Hosts are needed for Social/Coffee Hour!  
Please sign up on the tower . Thank YOU!**

## Vestry

- 2023**  
 Dave Meador  
 (Jr. Warden)  
 Brandon Robbins  
 Nina Silverthorne
- 2024**  
 Jill Brogneaux  
 (Sr. Warden)  
 Patti Donnelly
- 2025**  
 Barbara Pederson  
 Lamar Aycock
- Al Elmore, Treasurer  
 Paula Wills, Clerk
- Priest-in-Charge**  
 The Rev. Whit Stroud



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# October 2023

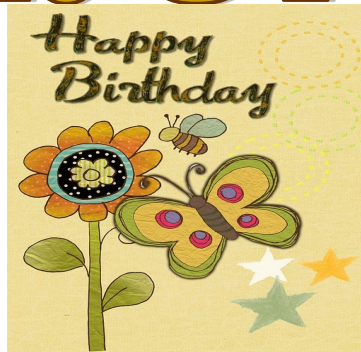


SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1 18th Sunday After Pentecost 9am Holy Eucharist Coffee/Social Hour</p>	<p>2 9am-3pm Office Open</p>	<p>3 9am-3pm Office Open 6pm Christian Formation</p>	<p>4 10-11am  6pm Blessing of the Animals</p>	<p>5 4pm Choir 6-7pm </p>	<p>6 10:30am Coffee with saints! </p>	<p>7</p>
← Parish Retreat						
<p>8 19th Sunday After Pentecost 9am Morning Prayer 10am Holy Eucharist @ Camp Trinity</p>	<p>9 CLOSED </p>	<p>10 9am-3pm Office Open 6pm Christian Formation</p>	<p>11 10-11am </p>	<p>12 4pm Choir 6-7pm </p>	<p>13 10:30am Coffee with saints! </p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 20th Sunday After Pentecost 9am Holy Eucharist Coffee/Social Hour ECW </p>	<p>16 9am-3pm Office Open</p>	<p>17 9am-3pm Office Open 6pm Christian Formation 7pm </p>	<p>18 10-11am </p>	<p>19 4pm Choir 6-7pm </p>	<p>20 10:30am Coffee with saints! </p>	<p>21 </p>
<p>22 21st Sunday After Pentecost 9am Holy Eucharist Coffee/Social Hour</p>	<p>23 9am-3pm Office Open</p>	<p>24 9am-3pm Office Open 6pm Christian Formation</p>	<p>25 10-11am </p>	<p>26 4pm Choir 6-7pm </p>	<p>27 10:30am Coffee with saints! </p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 22nd Sunday After Pentecost 9am Holy Eucharist Coffee/Social Hour 5pm 5th Sunday Trivia @ Holy Innocents</p>	<p>30 9am-3pm Office Open</p>	<p>31 9am-3pm Office Open 6pm Christian Formation</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Battle is On! Join us every 5th Sunday at 5pm for some fun! St. Francis vs. Holy Innocents</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Trivia Night</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">April 30th—host: Holy Innocents July 30th—host: St. Francis October 29th—host: Holy Innocents December 31st—host: St. Francis</p>			

Lay Server Schedule October 2023	October 1 18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Holy Eucharist Father Whit Stroud	October 8 19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Morning Prayer Diana Hammond	October 15 20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Holy Eucharist Father Whit Stroud	October 22 21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Holy Eucharist Father Whit Stroud	October 29 22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Holy Eucharist Father Whit Stroud
	9:00 am	9:00 am	9:00 am	9:00 am	9:00 am
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FLOWER	David Powell	David Powell	David Powell	David Powell	David Powell
ALTAR GUILD	Patti Donnelly Norma Powell	Patti Donnelly Norma Powell	Patti Donnelly Norma Powell	Patti Donnelly Norma Powell	Patti Donnelly Norma Powell
EUCHARISTIC VISITOR	Jill Brogneaux	Eldica Cyrus	Liz Meador	Jane Anthony	Fr. Whit Stroud
TELLERS	Barbara Pedersen Nina Silverthorne	Barbara Pedersen Nina Silverthorne	Barbara Pedersen Nina Silverthorne	Barbara Pedersen Nina Silverthorne	Barbara Pedersen Nina Silverthorne
SOCIAL HOUR	Liz and Dave Meador	Liz and Dave Meador	Liz and Dave Meador	Liz and Dave Meador	Liz and Dave Meador

# October

- 12...Ashely Valenzona
- 21...Lamar Aycock
- 30...Peggy Lewis



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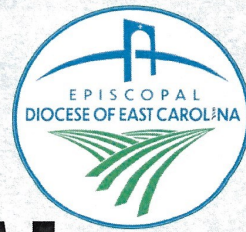
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**OPEN HOUSE, OPEN HEARTS: EXTENDING  
GOD'S WELCOME IN EAST CAROLINA**

# GETTING TO THE FESTIVAL



Here's what you need to know to get to our revival festival, Open House, Open Hearts: Extending God's Welcome in East Carolina, this October. This festival is open to all people, so please invite and welcome your neighbors!

## WHAT TO KNOW:

- We encourage neighboring congregations to share resources for transportation to the revival (ride share, car pooling, bus rentals, etc.)
- Plan to arrive before or by lunch time. We'll have food trucks with food available for purchase and family-friendly interactive festival offerings throughout the day (music, speakers, activities, and more!)

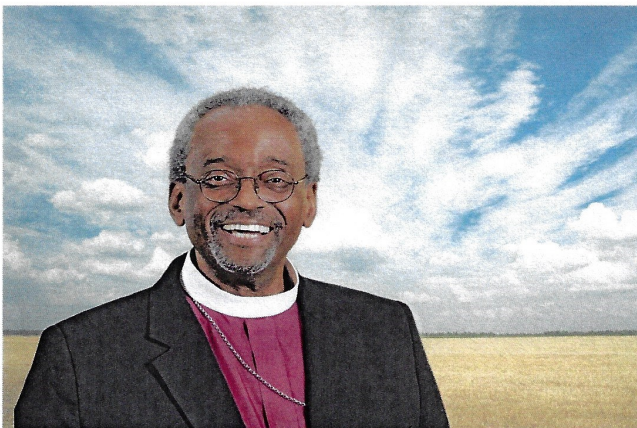
**DATE, PLACE, & TIME:**

## OCTOBER 21, 2023

📍 **EPISCOPAL FARMWORKER MINISTRY,  
2989 EASY ST, DUNN, NC 28334**

Parking will be available for cars, buses, and vans, though we strongly encourage ride sharing to make sure there is space for all in the limited space we have on property. Every effort is being made to provide as much accessible and handicapped parking as possible.

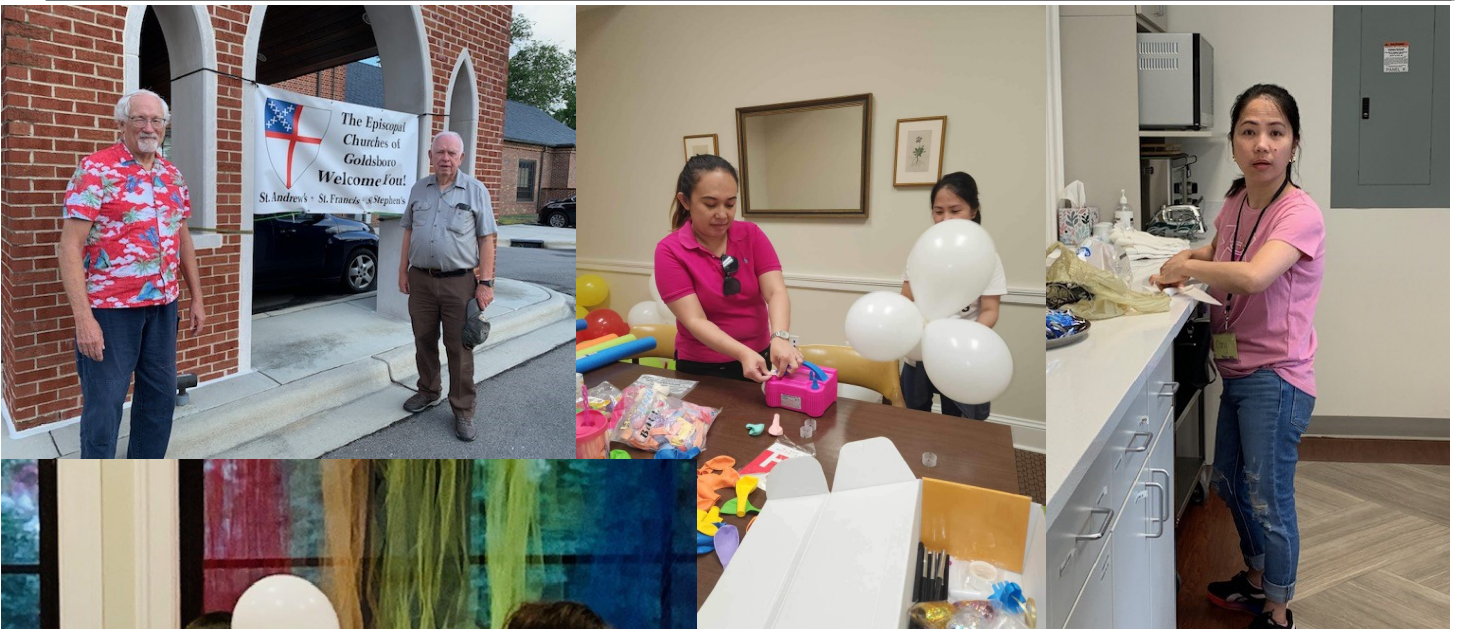
**FESTIVAL HOURS: 10:30 AM - 5:00 PM**



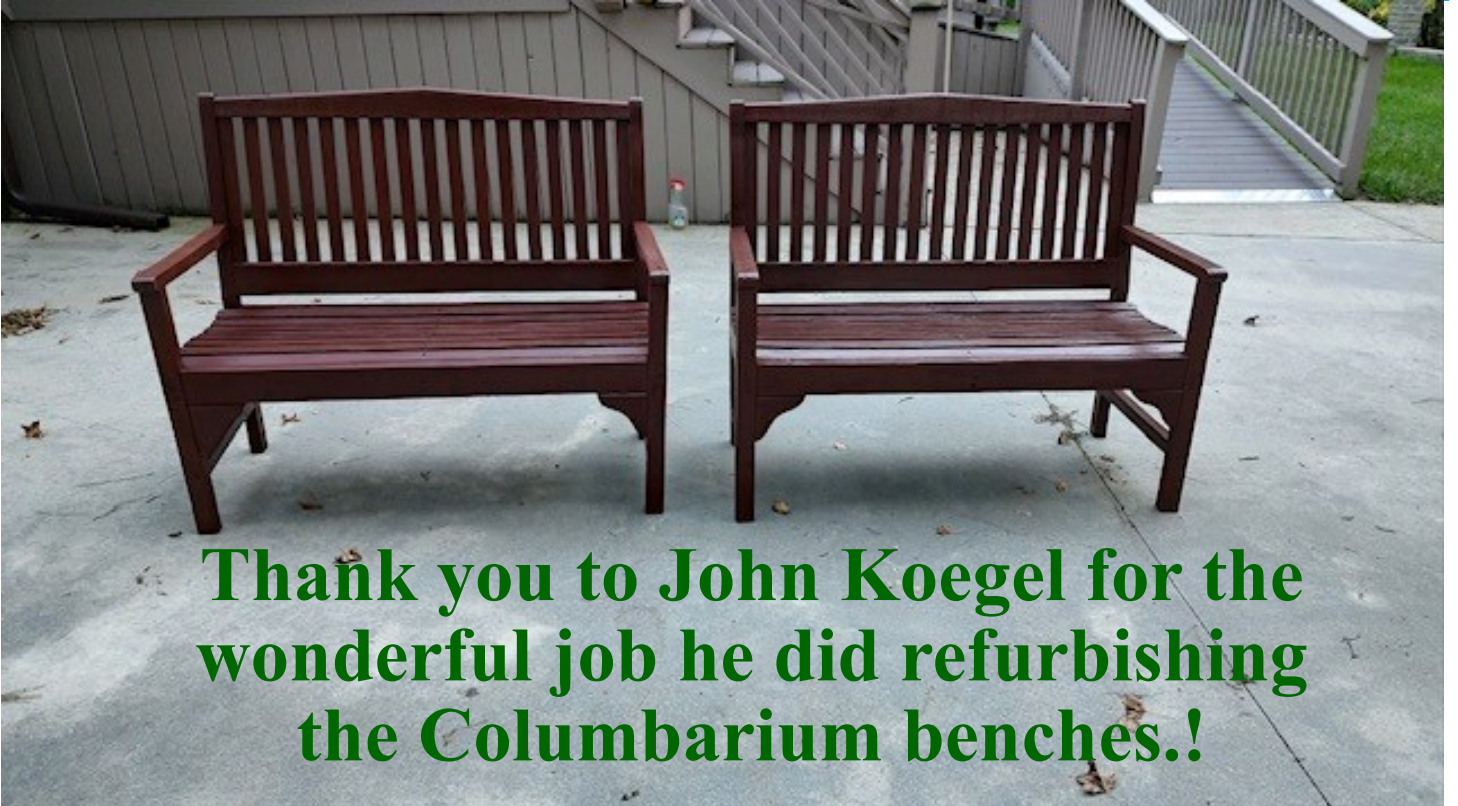
*Please let Hannah Jarman know by email if your congregation is coming by bus/van so we can be prepared to accommodate all larger vehicles:*

[hjarman@diocese-eastcarolina.org](mailto:hjarman@diocese-eastcarolina.org)





**THAT'S A WRAP! VBS 2023 with the Episcopal Churches of Goldsboro was a success. Dave and Gil used bungee cords to hang the banner. Nicole and Cory helped with décor and Cory also helped in the kitchen. Ashley represents "water" in the creation story as one of God's masterpieces.**



**Thank you to John Koegel for the wonderful job he did refurbishing the Columbarium benches.!**





**YARD  
SALE**

**PARKING LOT YARD SALE\*  
to benefit**

**St. Francis Episcopal Church**

**Saturday, September 23, 2023  
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

**Members who want to  
reserve tables should  
contact Liz at 919-223-4014;  
their proceeds are donated to  
St. Francis.**

**Non-members who want to  
reserve tables contact Liz, pay  
\$20, and keep their proceeds.**

**\*in the Parish Hall in case of rain**





**Join us Sunday, October 8, 10am for Holy Eucharist at Camp Trinity in Salter Path. Fr. Whit and those who signed up for the Parish Retreat would love to have your presence. If you are willing to drive, please consider asking others to ride with you. (9am Morning Prayer here at St. Francis for those unable to travel.)**





Every Friday beginning September 8, 10:30-11:30am, COFFEE with saints! Bring a friend. Door Prizes! You will be surprised by what you learn! Contact Jill Brogneaux with any questions.

**St. Francis will host the Episcopal Churches of Goldsboro for BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS Wednesday, October 4, 6pm in the church yard. There will be Holy Eucharist. Please have all pets leashed, crated, or caged. Help spread the word!**



**Sunday, October 29, 5pm, is our next 5th Sunday Trivia. Holy Innocents will host this time. We need YOU! Plan to join in the fun.**





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~ The Franciscans — September October 2023 ~

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Organist/Choirmaster  
Beverly Anderson,  
Parish Administrator  
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August  
Clean-up:  
Al, Dave,  
and Liz were  
all busy!  
The benches  
were placed  
back in the  
Columbarium.  
Come  
out the 1st  
Saturday of  
each month  
around 9am  
and lend a  
hand!